Urinary System: 27 gave the history of urinary disturbance, usually a mild retention. Skin: Profuse sweating occurred in 45 cases. Rash: Red blotches in 2 cases; general erythema, 4 cases; macular, resembling measles, 8; urticaria, 4; pustular, 2; herpes, 7. Dr. Wilson notes in conclusion: "The prodromal period has been found to be the most important stage in the course of the disease, both as to early quarantine and treatment. A careful history while not diagnostic, is very suggestive particularly in an epidemic."

Occlusion of the Aqueduct of Silvius in Relation to Internal Hydrocephalus.—SCHLAPP and GERE (*Am. Jour. Pediat.*, June, 1917, xiii, No. 6). Eight cases are reported, all showing either complete occlusion of the aqueductus cerebri or obliteration of the fourth ventricle by severe pathological changes in the ependymal or subependymal tissue. "Those cases, also, developing acutely in previously healthy adults and older children, and which have shown microscopically the same pathologic changes, may have been brought about in the same manner, namely, through the stimulation by some chemical poisoning of a tissue which is embryologically defective. These cases, no doubt, differ etiologically from that large group following meningitis, the acute infectious diseases and those due to bacterial invasion of the brain substance and ependyma from extension of suppurative processes of the middle ear or of cells of the mastoid. A consideration of the life processes of the cell offers an explanation of the occurrence of many cases of congenital and acquired closure of the Sylvian aqueduct. Metabolism is nowhere more delicately expressed than in the highly complex chemical reactions of the cells of the central nervous system; and while knowledge of these reactions is still far from complete, it is, nevertheless, conceivable that any slight noxious influence may be sufficient seriously to disturb the latent forces of the glia cells, resulting in the dominating influence of one or the other of the processes residing in these cells. These life processes may be divided into the nutritive, the formative, and the functional activities. In the first, which involves an appropriation of nutritive substances from the blood, potential energy is stored up and is subsequently translated into formative or functional activity, as represented by cell division, on the one hand, or by functionation of the specialized cell, on the other. In cells which have become highly specialized, as the nerve cell, gland cell and muscle cell, the potential energy of the cell body is converted into the predominating activity, and the formative process is held in abeyance, and, so long as the normal relation between synthesis and catalysis is maintained, functional activity of the cell remains in a state of constancy. On the other hand, in those cells not highly specialized, as the ependymal, glia, and the connective-tissue cells, formative activity is easily awakened, and so it happens that in many cases of hydrocephalus, stimulation of these cells by some irritating substance results in an active proliferative process which involves not only the ependyma but the subependymal tissues of the aqueduct of Sylvius, as seen in the obliterativeglioses (in these cases). The exact nature, source and means of access of such damaging stimuli are not always readily determined, and, barring the possible influence of syphilis and bacterial invasion of the meninges, ependyma and choroid plexuses, there remains to be studied more closely the casual effects of circulating toxic by-products of fetal or maternal metabolism, and variation in function of the endocrine glands. Syphilis has not operated as a known etiological factor in this sequence, with the exception of Case 6, in which Spirocheta pallida have been found in the cerebral tissue. The Levaditi method has failed to show the presence of spirochetes in two other cases (2 and 7) which it was thought might be explained on the grounds of a luetic infection. The clinical records do not include reports of the Wassermann reaction of the blood or spinal fluids of the parents of these children."

OBSTETRICS

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Asphyxia Pallida from Placental Separation.—WELZ (*Am. Jour. Obst.*, November, 1916) reports the case of a primipara apparently near the end of pregnancy who had been taken with hemorrhage from the vagina, and uterine contractions had developed. On admission to hospital the patient was pale, with weak, rapid pulse, and no fetal sounds or movements could be recognized. The uterus was oval, relaxed and about the size of a nine months' pregnancy. On vaginal examination no placenta previa could be found. The membranes had not ruptured and there was considerable dilatation. Under ether the membranes were ruptured and bipolar version performed and the left leg of the child brought down. A fetus measuring 47 cm. in length was readily delivered in a condition of asphyxia pallida from which it was resuscitated by a lung motor. On examining the after-birth there were four distinct placentæ, the membranes traversed by numerous bloodvessels. The cord was attached to the center of the largest placenta, and the different placentæ were connected by the membranes which were unusually thick and vascular. The two larger placentæ were attached to the side of the uterus below the fundus, while the two smaller were in the lower uterine segment but were not placenta previa. The two lower had become detached causing hemorrhage.

Cholelithiasis Complicating Pregnancy.—FINKELSTONE (*Am. Jour. Obst.*, November, 1916) publishes the case of a multipara who when seen was pregnant between three and four months and who had an abortion. After this she was operated upon to repair lacerations, and following the operation had an attack of cholecystitis. It seemed to have resulted from the action of calomel given to the patient to move the bowels. From this she made a gradual recovery without operation, the roentgen ray showing adhesions around the gall-bladder. Sometime after this the patient became pregnant, refused operation, and had morphin to relieve pain. Consent was finally given to operation when